

## **REMARKS**

In the December 20, 2000 Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings, rejected claims 37-81 and 85-119 under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Fukuma and Waytena and rejected claims 82-84 under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Fukuma and further in view of Steadham and Waytena. In response thereto, the Applicants have amended the specification, added a new Figure 19A, cancelled claim 81, amended claims 37, 41, 48, 51, 59, 62, 74, 77, 80, 82, 85, 86, 87, 94, 95, 96, 97 and 99-119, and added new claims 120 through 125. Claims 37-80 and 82-125 remain at issue.

### **Amendment to Specification and New Drawing**

The Applicants have amended the specification to include a new Figure 19A and the accompanying text inserted into page 23 of the present application. Other than updating the reference numerals, new Figure 19A is identical to Figure 5B of provisional application 60/083,651 filed April 30, 1998 of which the present application claims priority and which was incorporated by reference in the present application. Similarly the text added on page 23 of the present application which describes the new Figure 19A is similar to page 8 lines 11-26 and page 10 lines 20-25 of the provisional application. No new matter has been entered.

### **The Objection to the Drawings**

The Applicants acknowledge that the drawings as filed are informal and will make the appropriate corrections if the present application is allowed.

### **Amendments to the Claims**

With regard to claims 37 through 79, the Applicants wish to point out that other than the element "...in the reservation booking database" added to the booking module element in claim 37, the other amendments were not done to overcome any rejection or statutory requirements. Rather the other amendments were done to either remove limitations from the claims or to rephrase the wording of the claims to more accurately claim the present invention. See for example the amended placement of the reservation booking database element in claim 37. The

Applicants therefore reserve the right to assert the full range of equivalents with regard to these non-statutory amendments to claim 37 and its dependents.

With regard to claims 80 through 99, the Applicants again wish to point out that other than the element "...a local computer ..." added to claim 80, the other claim amendments were not done to overcome any rejection or statutory requirements. Rather the other amendments were done to either remove limitations from the claims or to rephrase the wording of the claims to be more consistent with the present invention in the Applicant's opinion. The Applicants therefore reserve the right to assert the full range of equivalents with regard to these non-statutory amendments to claim 80 and its dependents.

With regard to claims 99-118, the Applicants have removed "the step of" language from all of the claims so that these claims are not examined or construed under 35 USC 112, 6<sup>th</sup> paragraph. The remaining amendments to these claims were done so to either remove limitations or to rephrase the claims in a manner more consistent with the present invention in the Applicant's opinion. The Applicants therefore reserve the right to assert the full range of equivalents with regard to these non-statutory amendments to claim 99 and its dependents.

The Applicants have also added new claim 120 which recites a number of means elements as construed under 35 USC 112, 6<sup>th</sup> paragraph. The Applicants submit that claim 37, which is not written in means-plus-function form, does not fall under and should not be construed under 35 USC 112, 6<sup>th</sup> paragraph.

### **Information Disclosure Statements**

The Applicants wish to clarify that the references submitted in the February 17, 2000 and March 6, 2001 Information Disclosure Statements (IDS) are believed to be all available to the public prior to the filing of the provisional application Serial No. 60/083,651 (filed April 30, 1998) from which the present invention claims priority and not the filing date of the present application. Specifically with the February 17, 2000 IDS, the Applicant inadvertently stated the references were available to the public before the filing date of the "present application". Applicants apologize for these mis-statements and request the Examiner notify the Applicants if this error is problematic.

## The Art Rejections

Fukuma relates to a system for managing reservations at banquet or conference halls. Specifically the Fukuma system provides a reservation/vacancy management system that can handle either the regular or irregular partitioning of banquet rooms. During operation, when the banquet hall provider enters an arbitrary banquet area and date into the system, a vacancy determination means accesses a reservation database to determine if the arbitrary banquet area is unreserved on the selected date. A conflicting area detection means also detects any conflicting areas that will not be able to be used while the arbitrary area is in use. A reservation means writes reservation information indicating that the arbitrary area and the conflicting areas will be used on the selected date into the system. ***In no way does Fukuma teach or suggest that Internet users or any other party other than a person who has direct access to the reservation system can reserve a banquet area in the system.***

Waytena teaches a system that allows patrons at an amusement park or other facility such as a restaurant to schedule reservations in queues for attractions or other services. The system includes a plurality of hand-held communication devices (PCDs) and a plurality of attraction computers, each associated with an attraction. The PCDs and attraction computers communicate with one another over a network to manage the scheduling of reservations. During operation, a user enters a request for a reservation for a particular attraction through one of the PCDs. The request is then forwarded to the attraction computer over the network. The attraction computer processes the request and generates a proposed reservation time that is transmitted back to the PCD if the reservation can be accommodated. The patron can then elect to confirm the reservation using the PCD resulting in the patron's reservation time being stored in a "virtual" queue within the attraction computer. When a reservation time is approaching, the PDA is designed to alert the patron to proceed to the attraction.

The Waytena system is also designed to operate in conjunction with physical queues as well. Thus in a situation where there is both a physical queue and a virtual queue for a given attraction, the management and scheduling of patrons using the virtual queue can be adjusted as desired to balance the admissions of those in the physical queue.

It is useful to note that with the Waytena system, ***those in the physical queue are never entered into the reservation system.*** Rather the physical queue is simply used to adjust the admission of those in the virtual queue to an attraction. With reference to Figure 6 and in Column 22 line 5, Waytena teaches:

When physical queue monitor 103 detects changes in the physical queue that necessitates changes in virtual queue 210 or when attraction information 611 indicates a problem or other change that necessitates such a change, queue updater 212 causes computer 101 to enter state 612. The virtual queue 210 is updated to account for the changes. ...

More specifically, Waytena teaches that a processor 209 in the attraction computer determines a desired interleave ratio for admitting patrons from the physical and virtual queues. The interleave ratio is typically base on several factors, including for example, the size of the physical queue, staffing, throughput, etc. For more a more detailed discussion of the interleave ratio, see Figure 7 and Column 22 line 23 through Column 25 line 4 of Waytena.

The Applicants strongly disagree with the Examiner's rejection with regard to claim 37. Neither Fukuma or Waytena, either alone or in combination, teach a product that allows **both** Internet users using a **booking module** and a restaurant using a **table reservation management module** to reserve time-slots in the restaurant's **reservation booking database** for tables. Specifically claim 37 recites, among other elements, the following:

a booking module configured to enable the Internet user to book one of the available time-slots in the reservation booking database; and ...

a table reservation management module configured to enable the restaurant to book time-slots in the reservation booking database to reserve tables at the restaurant for customers not making bookings over the Internet.

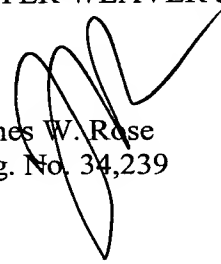
In contrast, Fukuma teaches a banquet hall reservation system where only a banquet hall manager or the like has access to the system and is capable of reserving a banquet area. Under no circumstances can a person over the Internet or any other type of communication network make a reservation for banquet space with the Fukuma system. Consequently Fukuma does teach or suggest the **booking module** as claimed above. Similarly, Waytena teaches a system for managing virtual queues and/or physical queues at an amusement park or some other type of attraction such as a restaurant. Waytena's system, however, does not teach a system where both patrons and the manager of an attraction can **both** make reservations into a **reservation booking database**. Accordingly, the proposed combination of Fukuma and Waytena fails to teach the present invention as set forth in claim 37.

The Applicants submit that claim 37 is now in a condition for allowance. The Applicants further submit that claims 38 – 79 are also patentable based on their dependency on claim 37, and therefore, the merits of the patentability of these claims are not individually addressed herein. However the Applicant's wish to state that they do not agree with the Examiner's rejection of these claims and reserve all right to argue the patentability of these claims at a later date.

Similarly, the Applicants submit that independent claims 80, 99, 119, and 120 include similar elements as found in claim 37. Specifically each of these claims recites a restaurant reservation system or method where both Internet users and a restaurant can make table reservations in a **reservation booking database**. Accordingly for the similar reasons articulated above, the Applicants submit that claims 80, 99, 119, and 120 and their dependant claims are all in a condition for allowance. Accordingly the merits of the patentability of these claims are not individually addressed herein. However the Applicant's wish to state that they do not agree with the Examiner's rejection of these claims and reserve all right to argue the patentability of these claims at a later date.

Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

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## **Marked up Version of Specification and Claims**

### **In the Specification:**

On page 23, line 19 insert the following paragraph:

Referring to Figure 19A, a web page for making a reservation according to another embodiment of the invention is illustrated. The web page 1000 includes a chart 1002, a graphical representation of the table layout 1004 of the restaurant, and a text field 1006 for displaying instructions to make a reservation. When a reservation request is made for a given date and time, the database 76 is queried. In response, the available tables for the selected day are displayed in chart 1002. In table layout 1004, the tables available at the specified time are displayed (i.e., the available tables may be displayed in one color and the previously reserved tables are displayed in a second color. A table can be reserved by selecting an available table in either the chart 1002 and/or the table layout 1004. In this manner, reservations can be made by the restaurant into the database 76 for persons requesting reservations by phone, walk-ins, etc. Reservations can also be made in a similar manner by Internet users.

### **In the claims:**

37. An [software product] apparatus comprising:

a reservation booking database having a plurality of records, the plurality of records corresponding to a plurality of time-slots for tables at a restaurant;

a web site module configured to create an Internet web site to enable an Internet user to book a table at [a] the restaurant, the web site module further comprising:

a time-slot display module configured to display one or more available time-slots corresponding to one or more [available] tables at the restaurant's place of business; and

a booking module configured to enable the Internet user to book one of the available time-slots [to reserve the corresponding available table; and] in the reservation booking database; and

a restaurant maintenance module configured to provide the restaurant access to the restaurant's table reservation [inventory] booking database, the restaurant maintenance module further comprising:

[a reservation booking database having a plurality of records, the plurality of records corresponding to the plurality of time-slots for the tables at the restaurant; and]

a table reservation management module configured to enable the restaurant to book time-slots in the reservation booking database to reserve tables at the restaurant for customers not making bookings over the Internet.

38. The [software product]apparatus of claim 37, wherein the web site module further comprises an Internet search module configured to locate the restaurant in response to a search request submitted by the Internet user to locate the restaurant among a plurality of restaurants affiliated with the web site.

39. The [software product]apparatus of claim 38, wherein the time-slot display module of the web site module further comprises a time-slot search module configured to search and display the available time-slots for tables at the restaurant's place of business during a selected time period as defined by the Internet user.

40. The [software product]apparatus of claim 39, wherein the time-slot search module is further configured to search and display the available and not-available time slot-increments for tables accommodating a specific party size as defined by the Internet user.

41. The [software product]apparatus of claim 37, wherein the booking module of the web site module is further configured to require the Internet user to submit personal information over the Internet for the Internet user to book one of the available time-slots[ to reserve the corresponding table at the restaurant's place of business].

42. The [software product]apparatus of claim 41, wherein the personal information includes at least one of the following types of information: the Internet user's name; the

Internet user's email address; the Internet user's mailing address; the Internet user's phone number; the Internet user's credit card information; and the Internet user's password.

43. The [software product]apparatus of claim 41, wherein the booking module of the web site module is further configured to write the personal information submitted by the Internet user into the reservation booking database of the restaurant, the personal information being written into the record in the restaurant's reservation booking database corresponding to the time-slot displayed by the time-slot display module and booked by the Internet user.

44. The [software product]apparatus of claim 43, wherein the web site module further comprises a confirmation module configured to generate a confirmation message over the Internet to the Internet user after the personal information has been written to the reservation booking database of the restaurant to confirm the booking of the selected time-slot.

45. The [software product]apparatus of claim 37, wherein the web site module further comprises a reminder module configured to send a reminder message over the Internet to the Internet user of the booked time-slot for the reserved table at the restaurant's place of business a predetermined time period prior to the date of the booking.

46. The [software product]apparatus of claim 37, wherein the Internet web site further comprises a link module configured to link to a web page associated with the restaurant.

47. The [software product]apparatus of claim 37, wherein the restaurant maintenance module further comprises a password module configured to accept a unique password to prevent the unauthorized access to the reservation booking database belonging to the restaurant.



48. The [software product]apparatus of claim 37, wherein the table reservation management module is further configured to [permit] enable [the restaurant to manage a substantial portion of its time-slot inventory for table bookings made by both Internet users through the Web site module or by non-Internet users] the number of records in the reservation booking database for the restaurant to be defined by the restaurant.

49. The [software product]apparatus of claim 48, wherein the table reservation management module further comprises a restaurant display module configured to permit the restaurant to display the available and the booked time-slots for the tables at the restaurant's place of business during a selected time period.

50. The [software product]apparatus of claim 49, wherein the restaurant display module is further configured to display the time-slot inventory of tables at the restaurant, the booked time-slots and the available time-slots during the selected time period.

51. The [software product]apparatus of claim 50, wherein the restaurant display module is further configured to display the time-slot inventory of tables [on a computer display, the time-slot inventory being displayed along a first axis] and the time increments for the availability of the tables [along a second axis of] on the computer display.

52. The [software product]apparatus of claim 50, wherein the restaurant display module is further configured to display the restaurant's booked and available time-slots for tables at the restaurant in at least one of the following seatings at the restaurant: a dinner seating; and a lunch seating.

53. The [software product]apparatus of claim 50, wherein the restaurant display module is further configured to display the bookings of time-slots for tables previously booked at the restaurant by Internet users through the Web site module.

54. The [software product]apparatus of claim 50, wherein the restaurant display module is further configured to display the bookings of time-slots for tables previously booked for customers by the restaurant through the table reservation management module.

55. The [software product]apparatus of claim 50, wherein the time-slots displayed by the restaurant display module provides pointers to corresponding records among the plurality of records in the reservation booking database of the restaurant.

56. The [software product]apparatus of claim 55, wherein the corresponding records contains fields configured to store customer information related to the time-slot booked in the name of the customer.

57. The [software product]apparatus of claim 56, wherein the corresponding records include at least one of the following fields: a name field for storing the name of the customer; a mailing address field for storing the mailing address of the customer; an email address field for storing the email address of the customer; a phone number field for storing the phone number of the customer; a credit card field for storing the credit card information of the customer; and a password field for storing the password information of the customer.

58. The [software product]apparatus of claim 55, further comprising a restaurant data entry module configured to allow the restaurant to write customer information into the record corresponding to the available time-slot to book the available time-slot in the name of the customer.

59. The [software product]apparatus of claim 55, wherein each booked time-slot displayed by the restaurant display module is a[n active] link to a second data display that

displays the customer information in the record [corresponding to a booked time-slot] when the booked time-slot is selected by the restaurant.

60. The [software product]apparatus of claim 59, wherein the second data display is further configured to display the customer information in the record corresponding to the booked time-slot regardless of whether the time-slot was booked over the Internet by an Internet user or by the restaurant using the table reservation management module.

61. The [software product]apparatus of claim 59, wherein the second data display further comprises a data entry field configured to receive data input from the restaurant indicating that the customer that booked the time-slot has arrived at the restaurant..

62. The [software product]apparatus of claim 48, wherein the table reservation management module further comprises a customer search module to aid the restaurant in finding one of the time-slots [for a table] booked in the name of a customer in the reservation booking database.

63. The [software product]apparatus of claim 62, wherein the customer search module performs the search using at least one of the following search criteria: date of booking; name of customer who made the booking; email address of the customer who made the booking; or telephone number of the customer who made the booking.

64. The [software product]apparatus of claim 37 wherein the web site module further comprises a first cancellation module configured to permit the Internet user to cancel a previously booked timeslot for a table booked by the Internet user at the restaurant's place of business.

65. The [software product]apparatus of claim 37, wherein the restaurant maintenance module further comprises a second cancellation module configured to permit the

restaurant to cancel a previously booked time-slot for a table at the restaurant's place of business.

66. The [software module]apparatus of claim 37, wherein the restaurant maintenance module further comprises a communication module configured to permit the restaurant to send communication messages to Internet users over the Internet.

67. The [software module]apparatus of claim 37, wherein the restaurant maintenance module further comprises a block-out module configured to enable the restaurant to selectively block-out time-slots in the restaurant's time-slot inventory so that the blocked-out time-slots can not be booked.

68. The [software product]apparatus of claim 37, wherein the web site module is configured to reside on a central computing location coupled to the Internet.

69. The [software product]apparatus of claim 68, wherein the restaurant maintenance module for the restaurant, including the reservation booking database and the table reservation management module, are configured to reside on a computer affiliated with the restaurant.

70. The [software product]apparatus of claim 69, wherein the restaurant maintenance module is further configured to write reservation updates to the restaurant's reservation booking database over the Internet to an aggregate database located at the central computing location, the aggregate database containing the reservation booking databases for a plurality of restaurants affiliated with the web site.

71. The [software product]apparatus of claim 68, wherein the restaurant maintenance module for the restaurant, including the reservation booking database database and the table reservation management module, are further configured to reside at the central computing location and are accessible by the restaurant over the Internet.

72. The [software product]apparatus of claim 71 further comprising an aggregate database configured to reside at the central computing location, the aggregate database including the reservation booking databases of a plurality of restaurants affiliated with the web site.

73. The [software product]apparatus of claim 71, wherein the restaurant maintenance module for the restaurant is further configured to write updates to the restaurant's reservation booking database over the Internet to a duplicate restaurant reservation booking database located on a computer associated with the restaurant.

74. The [software product] apparatus of claim 37, wherein the web site module further comprising a web page module for the restaurant, the web page module configured to post information pertaining to the restaurant [available] over the Internet[, the information including at least one of the following: the restaurant's menu; specials offered by the restaurant; wines offered by the restaurant; and reviews of the restaurant].

75. The [software product]apparatus of claim 74, wherein the restaurant maintenance module further comprises an editing module configured to permit the selected restaurant to edit the restaurant's web page module.

76. The [software product]apparatus of claim 38, wherein the Internet search module is further configured to locate the selected restaurant based on at least one of the following search criteria: name of the selected restaurant; location of the selected restaurant; or type of cuisine offered by the selected restaurant.

77. The [software product]apparatus of claim 76, wherein the web site module is further configured to display the search results of the search request submitted by the Internet user, the search results including at least one of the following types of information for the restaurants meeting the search request: the names of the restaurants;

the [address] location of the restaurants; the type of cuisine offered by the restaurants; reviews of the restaurants; a price range for the restaurants and posted comments from other Internet users regarding the restaurants.

78. The [software product]apparatus of claim 37, further comprising a table layout display module, the table layout display module further configured to display the layout of tables at the restaurant's place of business.

79. The [software product]apparatus of claim 78, wherein the table layout display module is further configured to display booked tables in a first display mode and open tables in a second display mode.

80. A reservation system comprising:

a central computing location configured to host [a restaurant web site module configured to create] an Internet web site for booking reservations at a plurality of restaurants, the [web site module further] central computing location comprising:

[an Internet user module including:]

an Internet search module configured to identify a selected restaurant in response to a search request submitted by an Internet user to identify the selected restaurant among a plurality of restaurants affiliated with the web site;

a time-slot display module configured to display one or more available time-slots each corresponding to one or more [available] tables at the selected restaurant's place of business;

a reservation booking database having a plurality of records, the plurality of records corresponding to the plurality of time-slots for the tables at the selected restaurant; and

a booking module configured to permit the Internet user to book one of the available time-slots to reserve the corresponding table in the reservation booking database[.]; and

a local computer located at the selected restaurant, the local computer configured to cooperate with the central computing location and including a table reservation management module configured to permit the selected restaurant to book time-slots in the reservation booking database to reserve tables at the selected restaurant for customers not making bookings over the Internet.

82. The reservation system of claim [81] 80, further comprising a second reservation booking database located on the local computer, the second reservation booking database configured to be a duplicate of the first reservation booking database associated with the selected restaurant.

85. The reservation system of claim [81] 80, wherein the table reservation management module is further configured to permit the selected restaurant to manage a [substantial] selected portion of its time-slots for table bookings made by both Internet users through the [Internet user] booking module or by non-Internet users.

86. The reservation system of claim [85] 81, wherein the table reservation management module further comprises a restaurant display module configured to permit the selected restaurant to display the available and the booked time-slots for the tables at the selected restaurant's place of business during a time period defined by the selected restaurant.

87. The reservation system of claim 86, wherein the restaurant display module is further configured to display the bookings of time-slots for tables previously booked at the selected restaurant by Internet users through the [Internet user] booking module.

94. The reservation system of claim 86, wherein each time-slot displayed by the restaurant display module is a[n active] link to a second [data] display that displays the customer information in the record corresponding to a booked time-slot when the booked time-slot is selected [by the restaurant].

95. The reservation system of claim 86, wherein the table reservation management module further comprises a customer search module to aid the selected restaurant in finding a booked time-slot [for a table in the reservation booking database of the selected restaurant] booked in the name of a specified customer.

96. The reservation system of claim 80, wherein the [Internet user module] central computing system further comprises a cancellation module configured to permit the Internet user to cancel a previously booked time-slot for a table booked by the Internet user [at the selected restaurant's place of business].

97. The reservation system of claim [81] 80, wherein the local computer further comprising a table layout display module, the table layout display module further configured to display the layout of tables at the selected restaurant's place of business.

99. A method comprising [the steps of]:

providing a first restaurant a first reservation booking database having a plurality of records, the plurality of records corresponding to a plurality of time-slots for [the] tables at the first restaurant

providing a restaurant table reservation management module configured to enable the first restaurant to book time-slots in the first reservation booking database to reserve the tables at the first restaurant for customers not making bookings over the Internet; and

providing an Internet booking module configured to enable an Internet user to book an available one of the time-slots to reserve one of the tables at the first restaurant.

100. The method of claim 99, further comprising [the steps of] providing the first reservation booking database at the first restaurant's location.



101. The method of claim 100, further comprising [the steps of] providing a copy of the first reservation booking database at a central computing location and updating the copy of the first reservation booking database when the first restaurant books time-slots in the first reservation booking database to reserve tables for customers not making bookings over the Internet.

102. The method of claim 99, further comprising [the steps of] providing the first reservation booking database at a central computing location.

103. The method of claim 102, further comprising [the steps of] providing a copy of the first reservation booking database at the first restaurant and updating the copy of the first reservation booking database when Internet users book time-slots in the first reservation booking database [located] provided at the central computing location[ to reserve tables at the first restaurant].

104. The method of claim 102, further comprising [the steps of] aggregating a plurality of reservation booking databases associated with a plurality of restaurants at the central computing location.

105. The method of claim 99, further comprising [the steps of] maintaining a restaurant related web site, affiliating a plurality of restaurants with the web site, and providing the plurality of restaurants a plurality of the reservation booking databases and a plurality of the table reservation management modules respectively.

106. The method of claim 105, further comprising [the step of] providing a search module with the web site to enable the Internet user to search for [the first] a selected restaurant among the plurality of restaurants affiliated with the web site.

107. The method of claim 99, wherein [the step of] providing the table reservation management module further comprises [the step of] enabling the first restaurant to

manage a [substantial] selected portion of its time-slot inventory for table bookings made by Internet users [or] and for [non-Internet users by the first restaurant] customers not making reservations over the Internet.

108. The method of claim 99, wherein the [step of] providing the table reservation management module further comprises [the step of] providing a restaurant display module configured to enable the first restaurant to display the available and the booked time-slots for the tables at the first restaurant's place of business during a time period defined by the first restaurant.

109. The method of claim 108, wherein the [step of] providing the restaurant display module further comprises [the step of] configuring the restaurant display module to display the bookings of time-slots for tables previously booked at the first restaurant by Internet users through the Internet booking module.

110. The method of claim 108, wherein the [step of] providing the restaurant display module further comprises [the step of] configuring the restaurant display module to display the bookings of time-slots for tables previously booked for customers by the first restaurant through the reservation table management module.

111. The method of claim 108, wherein the [step of] displaying time-slots during the time period defined by the first restaurant further comprises [the step of] configuring the displayed time-slots [as pointers to the corresponding] to correspond to records among the plurality of records in the first reservation booking database.

112. The method of claim 111, further comprising [the step of] enabling the first restaurant to write customer information into the records [corresponding to the time-slots booked by the first restaurant in the name of customers].

113. The method of claim 111, further comprising [the step of] enabling the Internet user to write customer information into the record [corresponding to the available one of the time-slots to reserve the corresponding table at the first restaurant] through the Internet booking module.

114. The method of claim 111, further comprising [the step of] configuring the record to [be written with customer information to reserve the corresponding time slot in the name of the customer, the record including] include at least one of the following fields: a name field for storing the name of the customer; a mailing address field for storing the mailing address of the customer; an email address field for storing the email address of the customer; a phone number field for storing the phone number of the customer; a credit card field for storing the credit card information, of the customer; and a password field for storing the password information of the customer.

115. The method of claim 99, further comprising [the step of] providing a customer search module to aid the first restaurant in finding one of the time-slots booked in the name of a customer.

116. The method of claim 99, further comprising [the step of] providing a cancellation module configured to permit the Internet user to cancel a previously booked time-slot for a table booked by the Internet user at the first restaurant's place of business.

117. The method of claim 99, further comprising [step of] providing a table layout display module configured to display the layout of tables at the first restaurant's place of business.

118. The method of claim 117, wherein the [step of] providing the table layout display module further comprises [the steps of] displaying booked tables in a first display mode and open tables in a second display mode.

119. A software product comprising:

a first restaurant [a] reservation booking database having a plurality of records, the plurality of records corresponding to a plurality of time-slots for the tables at the first restaurant;

a restaurant table reservation management module configured to enable the first restaurant to book time-slots in the first reservation booking database to reserve the tables at the first restaurant for customers not making bookings over the Internet; and

an Internet booking module configured to enable an Internet user to book an available one of the time-slots to reserve one of the tables at the first restaurant.

Please add the following new claims.

120. A apparatus comprising:

a reservation booking database means having a plurality of records, the plurality of records corresponding to a plurality of time-slots for tables at a restaurant;

a web site module means for creating an Internet web site to enable an Internet user to book a table at the restaurant, the web site module means further comprising:

a time-slot display module means for displaying one or more available time-slots corresponding to one or more tables at the restaurant's place of business; and

a booking module means for enabling the Internet user to book one of the available time-slots in the reservation booking database; and

a restaurant maintenance module means for providing the restaurant access to the restaurant's table reservation booking database means, the restaurant maintenance module means further comprising:

a table reservation management module means for enabling the restaurant to book time-slots in the reservation booking

database means to reserve tables at the restaurant for customers not making bookings over the Internet.

124. The apparatus of claim 79, wherein the first display mode is a first color and the second display mode is a second color.

125. The reservation system of claim 98, wherein the first display mode is a first color and the second display mode is a second color.

126. The method of claim 118, wherein the first display mode is a first color and the second display mode is a second color.

124. The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the website module is configured to be accessible to the Internet user using a personal computer.

125. The apparatus of claim 124, wherein the website module is configured to be accessible to the Internet using a computing device coupled to the Internet using a wireless device.